



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **FEBRUARY IS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

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PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes is pleased to announce that the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office is continuing its community outreach by taking its Teen Dating Violence Presentation to International High School in Paterson on Friday, February 5, 2010.

The Passaic County Domestic Violence Unit discusses with students the staggering statistics associated with this often unreported crime. They include that approximately 1 in 5 female high school students reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner. Further, 57% of teens report knowing a friend who has been physically, sexually, or verbally abused while in a dating relationship.

In addition to providing relevant data on dating violence and whom it affects, the program discusses proactive strategies to detect and prevent this abuse in the future. The program empowers the students to carry out the message of "Be Safe, Be Smart, Be Strong and Speak Out against Violence."

If your school is interested in having our office present to your students, please contact Detective Hector Jimenez at 973-881-4741. He can also be reached at [hjimenez@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:hjimenez@passaiccountynj.org) or by writing to Detective First Grade Hector Jimenez at 401 Grand Street, Paterson, New Jersey 07450.